

The Times Dispatch
Business Office.....115 E. Main Street.
South Richmond.....1030 Hull Street.
Petersburg Bureau.....100 N. Spotswood Street.
Lynchburg Bureau.....215 Eighth Street.
BY MAIL. One Six Three One
Postage Paid. Year 10.00. Six Mos. 6.00.
Daily with Sunday.....1.00. 1.00. 1.00. 1.00.
Daily without Sunday.....1.00. 1.00. 1.00. 1.00.
Sunday Edition only.....1.00. 1.00. 1.00. 1.00.
Sunday (Wednesday).....1.00. 1.00. 1.00. 1.00.
By Times-Dispatch Carrier Delivery Service in Richmond (and suburbs) and Petersburg.....One Week
Daily with Sunday.....15 cents
Daily without Sunday.....10 cents
Sunday only.....5 cents
Entered January 27, 1906, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 1912.

LEGISLATIVE DYNAMITERS.

Most disgraceful and most outrageous of all the things that have characterized the present General Assembly so far as incompetent and retrogressive as to administrative reform has been its absolute subservience to the officeholders of Virginia. To make the indictment more specific, the treasurers must be named. They have cracked the whip, and legislators ran and fetched; they have frowned, and legislators have shrunk from their public duty; they have ordered and legislators have obeyed like driven cattle. Never has the domination of the officeholders' domination of the General Assembly been so frankly and so boldly shown as at this session.

In the face of the Constitution of Virginia and in defiance of all the principles of constitutional law as laid down in decided cases, the Treasurers' Trust forced through the General Assembly a bill to re-submit to the people in 1912 an amendment which they voted down in 1910, and which could not possibly be voted upon again constitutionally until 1914. Like an express train shooting through a subway, the bill whizzed through the General Assembly. There was no public demand for the amendment, but the frightened treasurers whose terms would expire in 1912, and who would have to vacate their offices because the amendment passed in 1910 limited their terms to two successive terms, framed up a legislative deal, and rammed an unconstitutional bill through the General Assembly, which, if submitted in 1912, might enable these official patriots to possess their offices for life.

Then came up the bill to require monthly settlements from the treasurers, who now make semi-annual settlements. Listen to what that excellent and efficient Auditor of Public Accounts, Captain S. R. Donohoe, says on this point in his report:

"State funds in the hands of treasurers cannot be lawfully used by them for any purpose whatever except to pay jurors and witness certificates in jury cases, and there is no good reason why such funds should be retained by them for lengthy periods. The State, besides meeting ordinary current expenses, has to pay large sums every month to the State hospitals, educational and other institutions, and should have all her funds in the public treasury where they properly belong. The present rule of semi-annual settlements is contrary to every sound business policy. The manager of any great railroad system or other large business enterprise who retained with him the cash of his system too often results in an inefficient collection of taxes. By using, with no improper motive, all monies coming into his hands to meet county expenses, the treasurer, in many instances, does not proceed with due diligence with the collection of tax bills, and when the time comes for his settlement with the Auditor he sometimes finds himself without sufficient funds to make his settlement promptly. If required to settle monthly, he necessarily would be compelled to proceed with more diligence and energy with the collection of the revenue, and many treasurers would thus be saved the mortification and discredit of being unable to meet their obligations to the Commonwealth when due."

Here was a bill in accord with Mr. Donohoe's public recommendation, but the treasurers wanted to keep the State's money in their own hands, and so the bill was killed.

Next came up the bill requiring county, city and town treasurers to make reports to the Auditor of Public Accounts as to the financial affairs of their offices. There is no reason why this should not be done. The bill provided for business methods in the treasurers' offices and was really in their interest. The case of the Chesterfield treasurer who, under the law, did not have to make any reports, and who fell behind in his accounts many thousands of dollars, was cited, but the bill was killed, 47 to 25, and the slipshod method will continue because the treasurers want to be unbusinesslike. Why?

Buried almost beyond the hope of resurrection in the Senate Committee on Finance is a bill passed by the House reducing the percentage of commission received by four county treasurers from 3 1/2 to 2 per cent, on collections exceeding \$50,000. The treasurers of Rockingham, Augusta, Norfolk and Henrico get 3 1/2 per cent, more than the city treasurers through a groundless anomaly in the law. This bill would put all treasurers on the same basis as to this commission, but these four treasurers who would be relieved downward got together, called in the surgeons representing the Treasurers' Trust, and etherized the bill in committee.

The fine Italian band of the treasurers helped in the emancipation of the Tax Commission bill. The treasurers feared that the Tax Commission would interfere with their own sweet

way of running their offices, and so they threw the weight of their sinister influence against tax reform, and tax reform is not.

Is the Legislature a general assembly of treasurers or a General Assembly of the people? The legislative record shows that it is the treasurers who legislate, while the legislators run errands.

The treasurers looked here like scared rabbits and defeated Charles A. Johnston for the office of Auditor of Public Accounts, because Auditor Donohoe had made them come to time, and because they did not want another Donohoe. An Auditor on the job in the devil in the treasurers' eyes. These petty but overpaid officials have haunted the Capitol; they have maintained a lobby here; they have dogged the footsteps of their respective representatives; they have stopped the out of legislators to the voice of the people; they have killed excellent measures shaped for the public good; they have laid the train and set fire to the fuse, and constructive legislation has been dynamited; they have set the alarm clock, and the General Assembly went off.

The control of the treasurers over the General Assembly of Virginia is a disgrace to an intelligent people. How long will it be before these unofficial and private legislators are kicked out? How long will the people stand for the obstruction of reform by these enemies of the public weal? If there are treasurers who are not in the combine, let them speak out so that we may know who is and is not in the Treasurers' Trust. Are the people of Virginia going to submit to government of treasurers, by treasurers and for treasurers?

ROOSEVELT THE VICARIOUS.

Of all the hypocrites that have appeared on the stage of American politics, Theodore Roosevelt is the boldest and worst. His latest role of vicarious leader of the people is mock-heroic; he who deceived the people, misled them and misguided them deserves to be called by "a shorter and uglier word." Sacrificing an old and trusted friend for the gratification of his own selfish desires, this self-accomplishing parasite possesses an ingrowing ego which is making a buffoon of him before the people, who once held him in honor and respect. He declares that he seeks a third term only because there is a real popular movement expressing a demand from a substantial portion "of the plain people," he believes that he has a great task to perform and a great reform to achieve; he denies that his motive is in any sense personal. No man but Roosevelt could believe, if he does believe it, that such a demand exists, or that he is the only man in the country to do this mysterious and undefined task. Never before has the colossal vanity of the man been so clearly exposed. He mistakes the wheedlings of seven Governors, who did not receive as great a popular vote in their States as Mr. Taft, for the voice of the people; he appoints himself as a popular Moses without popular ratification.

This pose of Theodore Roosevelt is simply another phase of his stupendous mendacity, his sneaking equivocation and his utter unreliability and unfitness for the trust of even a negligible portion "of the plain people." The padded cells are filled with people who imagine that they incarnate all the saints and prophets; the strait-jackets confine many a one who believes himself divinely appointed to save the world.

RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Is there any reason why the words, "The Richmond Public Library" should not be heard every day on the streets as a real fact? Is there any reason why Louisville, Montgomery, Charlotte and Nashville should have public libraries while a far older town has none? The time is coming when this city cannot afford to meet queries about its library with dubious apologies. The absence of this central civic factor is bad business, if nothing else. Every day more people are judging of the desirability of a city for residence by its civic instead of its purely commercial advantages. They want homes and culture and educational advantages as well as a big clearing-house statement.

Some of the advantages of a library owned and conducted for all the citizens were pointed out and illustrated in a talk by the Librarian of the Louisville Public Library before the Richmond Educational Association last night. The point for memory to fasten on was that seven years ago Louisville had no library of value; now it has a central building and six branches, including a complete equipment for the negro population. All told, it issued 652,000 books last year, at a total cost of \$65,000. Louisville has some 225,000 inhabitants. At the same rate Richmond ought to spend about \$25,000 a year. Louisville's equipment included gifts of over \$100,000.

At present there is pending before a committee of the Council the question of accepting and using a gift of \$15,000 for the purpose of buying a lot for a library. The Times-Dispatch hopes most earnestly that civic pride will dictate that at least the first steps toward this end be taken. Even if the beginning is small, the manifest advantages will force a constant increase to meet the demands even a beginning will arouse.

The Louisville speaker enumerated some of the benefits of a library as an agency that answered needs of all the people. It should be a part of the education of children, of the men who have been forced to do without formal education, and it can in a way answer some of the problems connected with a difference in races. It provides a high form of recreation and entertainment and offers a center around which all

other social amelioration can gather. It elevates the general standard of intelligence, and constitutes the true people's university. And better than all else, it is the inspiration from which a thousand other goods flow. It is the mother of the desire to help and to beautify, and out of it come hospitals and museums and schools and art galleries. Its influence spreads throughout the entire State.

The Mayor in his message advocates the adoption of some plan to further this cause. It only needs starting. It is not conducive to city pride to see a branch of the Louisville Library thrown on the screen, and later hear some one ask the speaker why Louisville, as a true daughter of Virginia, does not show her filial feeling by establishing an equally beautiful branch in Richmond.

THE PRIMARY ABORTION.

If the Senate yesterday had passed the Byrd-Featherston primary bill in substantially the form it wore when it came from the House of Delegates, a wave of congratulation would be rolling over Virginia that the long struggle for an effective primary statute had been won. Instead, the Senate passed a mere skeleton of the House bill, with practically all of its vitals cut away by hands that must have been hostile to the whole principle of legalized primaries. A wave will still roll over Virginia, but it will be one of indignation that the members of the upper House should attempt to impose upon them the shadow of the substance, a statutory recognition of present unsatisfactory conditions for a legal remedy for these known and detested evils.

So far is the measure now lacking in those features which should commend it to the friends of good government that Senator Walker, who has always been an advocate of primaries and who wrote the present statute making the laws regulating general elections apply to primaries, felt obliged to vote against the bill. Senator Paul, an advanced student of primary legislation, stated that he voted for the measure only because he hoped there was some good point in it which the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections had failed to notice and to remove. We hope he may be right, but we fear that the unfriendly eye of the committee neither overlooked nor left any single word or line which would tend to prevent any of the primary frauds which have been so disgraceful to the communities in which they have occurred and so full of menace to the integrity of our whole nominating system.

Speaker Byrd, who has given ample evidence of his desire for a just and thorough primary law, should not accept this abortion and father it without protest. The House of Delegates, which showed a commendable desire to enact a legal and nonpartisan plan for protecting the rights of candidates, should not bow to the reactionary course of the Senate committee, so weakly followed by other members of the Senate. The Senate amendments should be rejected, and a conference committee should endeavor to secure a restoration of some of the salutary provisions of the original bill. At least, the dates of the primaries should be so fixed by law that they cannot be juggled by partisan committees, and the power of deciding contests should be vested in the courts, which should determine all legal rights in every civilized state.

By sending the bill to conference at this late stage of the session there is, of course, danger that its enemies may work its ruin by refusing to take a vote on the conference report. In that event, however, the responsibility will be definitely located, and the popular blame will smite only those who will deserve it.

If it is true that children of fourteen, who worked in the Lawrence, Massachusetts, mills, sometimes went for two days with no food but water, and even had to pay 10 cents for canal water to drink, it seems possible that the Republican candidates for nonhation might do something to improve these conditions, more important than shouting charges of prevalence at all the universe, or swinging the patronage club and steering the steam-roller.

Hudson Maxim, the inventor, has invented a new one. He invents thus: "In a short time there will be only three countries in the world—the United States of Africa, the United States of Asia, and the United States of America." He neglects to predict that the United States of the United States will have an Emperor a royal gentleman who will sign his imperial edicts with the initials, T. R.

Congress thinks the nation would like to pamper its sweet tooth, no matter what the effect on its constitution.

Chicago is seventy-five years old. She's a bright child, but a little large for her age.

Cheaper gas means a wider use, which means still cheaper gas, which means that kind of an endless chain is well worth starting.

Uncle Simpson Peppers says if Nature didn't know her business better than man knows his, farmers' would be a poor business. Aunt Susannah insists that why they call Nature a Hee.

The present Legislature has passed a little what and effective new legislation that if the people did have the right when they got through using it, there wouldn't be even an echo.

Among other things, in Richmond last year, there were no more births than deaths, and the death rate was the lowest since 1892. This is the right kind of immigration to encourage.

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

Signs of Spring.
When the ash pile fills the cellar
And the tin cans fill the yard,
When a collier's cart is full of coal,
And the work comes mighty hard;
When the wife starts in to hinting
That housecleaning time is near,
And the thrifty start to hanker
For the annual buck beer;
When the ball teams get to starting
For the good old sunny South,
And the robin comes to hopplin'
With his breakfast in his mouth;
When the old sun starts to shinin'
Upon both sides of the street,
And the newly-painted autos
Are out lookin' trim and neat;
When the overcoat gets left heavy
And are hard to lug around,
And a feller gets to longin'
For a can of real old ground;
When the canned goods all grow tasteless
And the bananas grow passe,
And the good old soapstone, griddle
Is hung up out of the way;
When the cider barrel's empty
And a feller starts to naggin'
On new seed for his lawn;
When the wife is planting gardens
And the tomato is in the string,
It is purty middlin' certain
That it's gettin' on to'ard spring.

To a Congressman.
Oh, Mr. Congressman, pray tell us
Pray tell us what, oh, what's come
Over you?
It's been the custom now for many
A year
For us consumers ultimate to hear
From our man down in Washington
By mail.
It didn't seem that this mode e'er
For could fail.
Pray do not overlook our urgent
Needs—
Why haven't we received our garden
Seed?

In the Future.
Some of the campaign expressions
which will be heard when the suffragettes run for President:
"Cat."
"Ain't she the mean thing?"
"Her clothes are a fright."
"She's a hussy. That's what she is."
"Oh, ain't she the spiteful little milk-sucker?"
"I wouldn't vote for anybody who has such poor taste in hats."
"Why, the snippy thing!"
"They say Mrs. _____ treats her poor husband just terrible around home. Ain't it a shame, and he's such a sweet little dear, too."

The Wensel Word.
Colonel Roosevelt says the word "Wensel" is a wensel word, one which takes the sting out of the sentiment which precedes it. And the Colonel, as usual is right. The word "but" should be eliminated from the English language. Here are a few reasons why it should:
"He is a fine, handsome, energetic, capable man, BUT it is a pity he drinks."
"It was a very fine party and they lavished a lot of money on it; the costumes were magnificent and the refreshments were perfect, BUT it is whispered they are terribly in debt and couldn't afford it."
"She is a handsome woman, BUT she is awfully fat."
"He is a very successful business man and a good character, BUT they say he treats his wife something fierce."
The presents were numerous and costly, BUT all the guests are kicking because they had to send them."

According to Uncle Abner.
This is a bad year for the feller who is superstitious, for you add up numerals 1912 and it makes thirteen.
Then, again, there are much more arduous jobs than that of being a married man. He has married a woman, and he has to look forward to a prosperous year. He has married of all his daughters excepting his and then, he has to look forward to go into vaudeville. They promised the only genuine sister act in the country.
The feller that kin smile once in a while is a boon to mankind, but the feller that grins all the time is a worse pest than the feller that has been to Europe once.
The West is certainly the land of golden opportunity, but "bout everybody that goes out there to grow up with the country is blamed glad to get back.
And Miller's son lost both arms in the sawmill, but Amie says there is no consolation, and that is that the boy can never grow up to write poetry for the magazines.

Voice of the People

The Virtues of the Old-Fashioned School

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir—A recent communication through the press brought the remembrance of the old-time school to the fore, and the rendering made the contrast in those schools of thirty years ago and these of to-day more appreciable.
Now there seems to be an inherent tendency in most of us to give preference to the orders of our own days, those in which we were active participants, rather than to others in which we have ceased to be factors, and this is the reason why we "mossbacks" revert with pride to the schools of yore, when, if the curriculum did not include such a multiplicity, the studies were mastered in a way that would shame those who now "accomplish" many books. Fancy one of these students who had accomplished so much writing with a letter-demon, "I could of accomplished many more studies, but the world demanded my services in the world of education!" Conceit? Yes, and not able to distinguish between a prepositional and a verbal form of expression. That the old-time school could not transform the dullard into a

Abe Martin

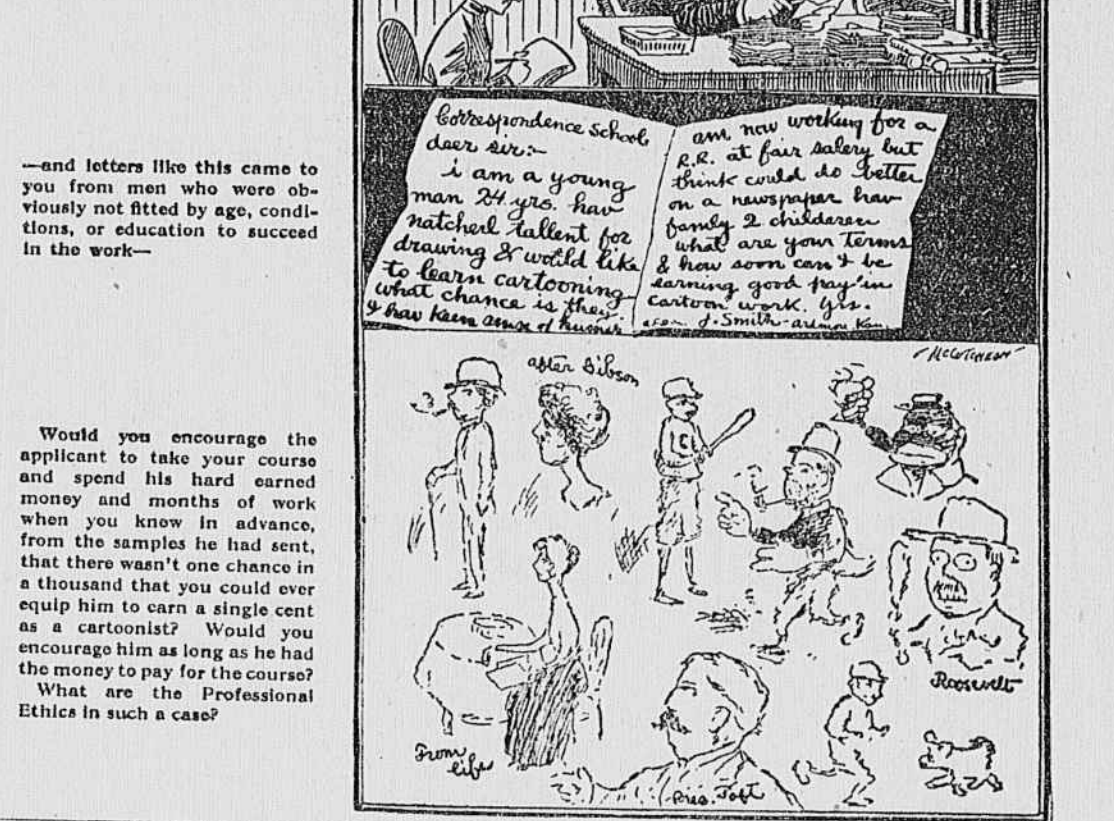


THE CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL OF CARTOONING.

By John T. McCutcheon.

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CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL
CARTOONING TAUGHT
BY MAIL.
WRITE FOR TERMS



Would you encourage the applicant to take your course and spend his hard earned money and months of work when you know in advance, from the samples he had sent, that there wasn't one chance in a thousand that you could ever equip him to earn a single cent as a cartoonist? Would you encourage him as long as he had the money to pay for the course? What are the Professional Ethics in such a case?

genius goes without saying, but the old pedagogues were not satisfied with anything short of a thorough knowledge of what they taught. Stringing of definitions, merely repeating the set forms in words without a clear conception of their purport was an indication of a smattering knowledge only. Many a "smarty" of the present day could be taken aback by a little practical questioning.

The style of boy who on Friday afternoon in the old-time school would declaim rather awkwardly the piece beginning:

"Oh, were you never a schoolboy,
And did you never train,
And feel that swelling of the heart
You never can feel again?"

Might not come up to the ideal of the present day standard, but it is warranted that the saggedness of manner by his many independence would not suffer by a comparison. He often committed to memory gems from McGuffey's Third Reader; he could spell "by heart" the most difficult words in Webster's or Holmes's Spelling Books; he could solve by analytical methods such problems as, "If the third of 6 be 3, what may the fourth of 29 be?" from Fowler's Arithmetic—that old arithmetic! What would the writer not give to see a copy and review the principles and examples of the "Single Rule of Three," the "Double Rule of Three," "Tare and Tret," and the ever-receding ocean of the past beyond the possibility of an ebb?

But it is said that the time change and men change with them—a fact indisputable in the face of observation. And if the writer is wrong in his conviction that a few thoughts from the past should give strength to the teachers of to-day he humbly craves the mantle of charity. Some day they will have to face the fact that the remembrance of the past.

FRANK MONROE BEVERLY.
Freeling.
Baltimore's Opportunity to Make Good.
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir—Baltimore as a convention city has always made good, and her hotel rates always remaining the same, but it appears that our sister Southern city because of Baltimore has struck a blow because hotel rates have been advanced in view of the forthcoming Democratic National Convention.
The coming of the West and the Middle West, and the fact that Missouri is complaining need not be held to jealousy because St. Louis failed to secure the convention. Grey Buttons says rooms were engaged at from \$2.50 to \$5 per day for five in a room for the Virginia delegation, but he appears to think this was the very best arrangement that could be made.

If the hotels of Baltimore charge regularly \$5 per day per person, with five persons in a room, for the room alone, there should be no kick coming, but if this amount is a raise on the regular price, the storm of protest is justified, and Baltimore should meet the emergency by insisting that the hotel proprietors keep the faith that the committee proposed, and accept the promise when the convention was allotted to that city against competition from cities where promises would be and have been kept heretofore.

The Stock Insurance Case.
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir—No more Equitable Life for me, if the facts in regard to the payment of the insurance premium of the late Mr. Stockton were fully and accurately stated in a recent issue of your paper. In such circumstances it would not be gains to suggest that the first word of the name of the company be changed. OWL EYE.
Richmond.

The Moncur Memorial.
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir—The memorial to Judge R. C. L. Moncur, of Fredericksburg, has received renewed commendation from prominent members of the bar of Virginia. One writes, "I am in hearty accord with the movement, and I was sufficiently in funds at this time to contribute something that was worth while to this most worthy object, and hope you will get enough to do me honor to so good and pure a man and so great a judge." Another writes, "It gives me pleasure in a small way to respond to the effort to place a monument at St. George's Church to the distinguished old veteran of the bench (Judge R. C. L. Moncur), one of the purest, and best men that ever gave ser-

QUERIES & ANSWERS

Old Maid.
At what age does an unmarried woman become an "old maid"?
K. Y. Z.
The propriety of the term in any case, very doubtful. There is no sort of common agreement as to the age of the person to whom the term may be applied. We should dislike to suggest any age less than, say, 100 years.

Retail Merchants.
Where may I get the by-laws of the Retail Merchants' Association?
T. V. WEBB.
Write Retail Merchants' Association, Hoffmeister Building, Richmond, Va.

Insurance.
How can I learn the principal features of the recently reported Mobile bill? May the citizens of a community in the State of Virginia legally form a society for caring for their sick and burying the dead?
J. B.
The Commissioner of Insurance, Richmond, Va., can send you fuller information than we have space for here.

Pimples and Blackheads.
Is there any safe and efficient means of "home treatment" for pimples and blackheads?
Softening the skin by application of hot water and removal of the pimples and blackheads and the use of sulphur ointment is about as effective as anything short of a proper constitutional treatment.

Immigration.
At what ports in the United States may immigrants land?
L. H. BAGBY.
Any.

The Conasoga.
Did you not make a mistake in the date of the destruction of the Conasoga in the Red River?
H. B. W.
We did not. The date was taken from an official publication of the Navy Department, confirmed by a recent letter from the same department.

County Clerk.
How may I find the law on killing robins in Chesterfield county, Va.?
H. A. N.
Write county clerk at Chesterfield Courthouse.

United Cigar Stores.
Do the United Cigar Stores do business in Virginia? If not, why? Are they waiting for the decision of some court now?
READER.
Not yet. They are said to be about ready to open in Norfolk.

Arithmetical.
Please give the values of .1, .01, .001, 1-10, 1-100, 1-1000.
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